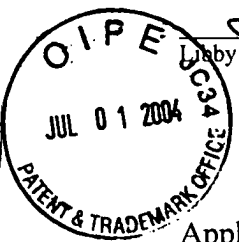


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on June 28, 2004 in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Libby Hill
Libby Hill

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/846,490
Applicant : Eldridge et al.
Filed : April 30, 2001
TC/A.U. : 3729
Examiner : C. Arbes

Confirmation No. 5397

Docket No. : P6D2-US

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SUBMISSION OF PAPER(S) FROM RELATED, PENDING APPLICATION

Sir:

Applicants submit a copy of an Office Action dated March 24, 2004 and an Amendment filed on June 24, 2004 in response to that Office Action in pending application serial no. 09/953,666 (attorney docket no. P17D1-US). The foregoing patent application may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the instant application, and the Examiner's attention is directed to the foregoing patent application and the prior art references cited therein.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 28 2004

By

N. Kenneth Burraston
N. Kenneth Burraston
Reg. No. 39,923

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/953,666	09/14/2001	Thomas H. Dozier II	P17D1-US	8892

7590 03/24/2004

Michael V. Messinger, Esq.
Sterne, kessler, Goldstein & Fox, P.L.L.C
1100 New York Avenue NW, Ste. 600
Washington, DC 20005

EXAMINER

CHANG, RICK KILTAE

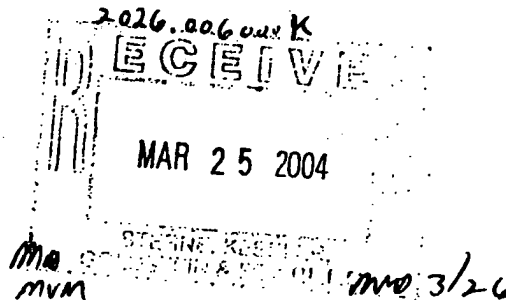
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3729

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



FormFactor, Inc.
IP Department

Date: 4-20 By: fk
Action: Respt on due
Due Date: 6-24-04
1x 7-24 2x 8-24 3x 9-24
Final: 10-24-04
File No: P17D1-US
Attorney/Firm: _____

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B

Office Action Summary



Application No.

09/953,668

Applicant(s)

DOZIER ET AL.

Examiner

Rick K. Chang

Art Unit

3729

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.138(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 and 49-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) that are not listed in item 6 below is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-11, 14-21, 23-28 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Speices 19 in Paper No. 12 is acknowledged.

However, claims 4-6 are alternative to the composite interconnection elements; claims 12-13 are alternative to brazing; claim 22 is alternative to etching removal in claim 21; claim 29 is alternative to joining the contact tip structures to the ends of the interconnection elements; and claim 30 is drawn to Fig. 3A. Therefore, claims 1-3, 7-11, 14-21, 23-28 and 31 will be examined.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

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The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Some of the dependent claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For example, claims 11-12 and 23 are not in the proper method format. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this

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subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-2, 7, 15-19, 25, 27-28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Covell, II et al (US 5,718,367).

Covell discloses pre-fabricating elongate contact tip structures (70) having a one end and an other end on a sacrificial substrate (50; 70 are on 50 by turning 90 degrees vertically); joining 70 to interconnection elements (93); removing 50; 93 are elongate; 72 is a topological contact feature to insert into conductive vias of a printed circuit board to enhance electrical pressure connections; 93 are elongate and formed on 95 which is a semiconductor carrier; Fig. 6 shows first 70 on the far left-hand side is in alternating orientation with another 70 located opposite corner on 95; integral 70, 71 and 72 are elongate, tapered and 3-Dimensional; 93 are resident on 95; and integral 70-71-72 are precisely located with each other as shown in Fig. 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covell, II et al (US 5,718,367) in view of Kanji et al (US 5,067,007).

Covell fails to disclose providing composite interconnection elements and brazing the interconnection elements to the contact tip.

Kanji discloses providing composite interconnection elements (11) and brazing the interconnection elements to the contact tip (12).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Covell by providing composite interconnection elements and brazing the interconnection elements to the contact tip, as taught by Kanji, for the purpose of increasing the number of pins on a printed circuit board by forming resilient pins and easily re-brazing the connections resulted from improper brazed connections.

11. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covell, II et al (US 5,718,367) in view of Feigenbaum (US 5,307,561).

Covell fails to disclose forming the topological contact feature in the shape of a pyramid, a truncated pyramid or one or more dimples.

Feigenbaum discloses forming the topological contact feature in the shape of a pyramid (Fig. 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Covell by forming the topological contact feature in the shape of a pyramid, as taught by Feigenbaum, for the purpose of enhancing electrical communication between the mating devices by readily penetrating through the oxidation layer on the mating device.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to form the topological contact feature in the shape of a truncated pyramid or one or more dimples because Applicants have not disclosed that forming the topological contact feature in the shape of a truncated pyramid or one or more dimples provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with tapered or pyramid shape topological contact feature. Therefore, it would have

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been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Covell to obtain the invention as specified in claims 9-10.

12. Claims 14, 21 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covell, II et al (US 5,718,367) in view of Tada et al (US 5,042,148).

Covell fails to disclose forming the tip structures from lithographic process by masking the sacrificial substrate, forming openings in the masking layer, depositing at least one of a nickel layer and etching the sacrificial substrate.

Tada discloses forming the tip structures from lithographic process by masking the sacrificial substrate, forming openings in the masking layer, depositing at least one of a nickel layer (Figs. 4A-4J), and etching the sacrificial substrate (100 is etched).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Covell by forming the tip structures from lithographic process by masking the sacrificial substrate, forming openings in the masking layer, and depositing at least one of a nickel layer, as taught by Tada, for the purpose of forming fine electrical circuits.

13. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covell, II et al (US 5,718,367).

Covell discloses forming tapered tip structures 71 in another direction (going down), less than orthogonal (71 is less than 90 degrees in respect to the vertical direction) to the first direction from the one end to the opposite end thereof.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to form tapered tip structures orthogonal to the first direction because Applicants have not disclosed that forming tapered tip structures orthogonal to

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the first direction provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with less than orthogonal to the first direction. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Covell to obtain the invention as specified in claim 26.

14. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Covell, II et al (US 5,718,367) in view of Hayama et al (US 6,378,424).

Covell fails to disclose that the elongate contact tip structures are of alternating length.

Hayama discloses that the elongate contact tip structures are of alternating length (Fig. 8 shows 24 are alternating lengths).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Covell by the elongate contact tip structures of alternating length, as taught by Hayama, for the purpose of mounting different thickness electronic components to provide a same thickness printed circuit board.

Conclusion


15. Please provide reference numerals (either in parentheses next to the claimed limitation or in a table format with one column listing the claimed limitation and another column listing corresponding reference numerals in the remark section of the response to the Office Action) to all the claimed limitations as well as support in the disclosure for better clarity. Applicants are duly reminded that a full and proper response to this Office Action that includes any amendment to the claims and specification of the application as

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originally filed requires that the applicant point out the support for any amendment made to the disclosure, including the claims. See 37 CFR 1.111 and MPEP 2163.06.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rick K. Chang whose telephone number is (703) 308-4784. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.



**RICHARD CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

RC
March 17, 2004



Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.
09/953,666

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
DOZIER ET AL.

Examiner
Rick K. Chang

Art Unit
3729

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-4,705,205	11-1987	Allen et al.	228/180.22
	B	US-5,042,148	08-1991	Tada et al.	29/852
	C	US-5,067,007	11-1991	Otsuka et al.	257/701
	D	US-6,378,424 B1	04-2002	Hayama et al.	101/170
	E	US-5,307,561 A	05-1994	Feigenbaum et al.	29/846
	F	US-5,718,367	02-1998	Covell et al.	228/254
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

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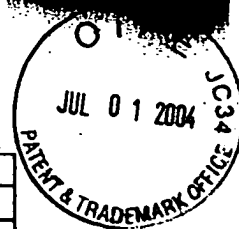
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.



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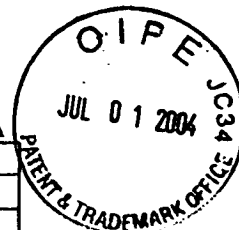
Substitute for PTO Form 101				Complete If Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	09/953,666	
				Filing Date	September 14, 2001	
				First Named Inventor	Thomas H. Dozier II et al.	
				Group Art Unit	2839	
				Examiner Name	Unknown	
Sheet	1	of	4	Attorney Docket No.	P17D1-US	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions
		Number	Kind Code ²			
	1	2824269		Ohl	2/18/1958	
	2	2967216**		Zablocki et al.	Jan-61	
	3	3271851		Hays	9/13/1966	
	4	3663920**		Lapham	May-72	
	5	3676776**		Bauer et al.	Jul-72	
	6	3714384**		Burkhardt	Jan-73	
	7	3771110**		Reed	Nov-73	
	8	3826984**		Epple	Jul-74	
	9	3842189		Southgate	10/15/1974	
	10	3891924**		Ardezzzone et al.	Jun-75	
	11	3994552**		Selvin	Nov-76	
	12	4307928**		Petlock Jr.	Dec-81	
	13	4338621**		Braun	Jul-82	
	14	4358175**		Reid	Nov-82	
	15	4466184**		Cuneo et al.	Aug-84	
	16	4553192		Babuka	Nov-82	
	17	4567433**		Ohkubo et al.	Jan-86	
	18	4593958**		Baba	Jun-86	
	19	4615573**		White et al.	Oct-86	
	20	4616404**		Wang et al.	Oct-86	
	21	4641176		Keryhuel et al.	2/3/1987	
	22	4688875		O'Connor	8/25/1987	
	23	4707655**		Kruger	Nov-87	
	24	4773877**		Kruger et al.	Sep-88	
	25	4831614**		Duerig et al.	May-89	
	26	4866504**		Landis	Sep-89	
	27	4893172**		Matsumoto et al.	Jan-90	
	28	4932883**		Hsia et al.	Jun-90	
	29	4965865**		Trenary	Oct-90	
	30	4993957**		Shino	Feb-91	
Examiner Signature				Date Considered	3/17/04	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

** COPY OF ART NOT ENCLOSED, AS IT WAS CITED IN PARENT APPLICATION NO. 08/819,464, FILED 3/17/1997.

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Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete If Known

Application Number	09/953,666
Filing Date	September 14, 2001
First Named Inventor	Thomas H. Dozier II et al.
Group Art Unit	2839
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket No.	P17D1-US

Sheet 2 of 4

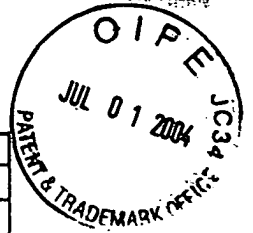
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions
<i>[initials]</i>	31	5090118**	Kwon et al.	Feb-92	
	32	5148964	Shimizu	9/22/1992	
	33	5152695**	Grabbe et al.	Oct-92	
	34	5165590	Cini et al.	11/24/1992	
	35	5191708**	Kasukabe et al.	Mar-93	
	36	5210939**	Mallik et al.	May-93	
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	42	5370300	Okumura	12/6/1994	
	43	5373627	Grebe	12/20/1994	
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	45	5395037	Takahashi et al.	3/7/1995	
	46	5398165	Ninou	3/14/1995	
	47	5420461	Mallik et al.	5/30/1995	
	48	5433369	Okumura	7/18/1995	
	49	5469733**	Yasue et al.	Nov-95	
	50	5475318**	Marcus et al.	Dec-95	
	51	5485949	Tomura et al.	1/23/1996	
	52	5524811	Terakado et al.	6/11/1996	
	53	5531022	Beaman et al.	7/2/1996	
	54	5538176	Hasegawa et al.	7/23/1996	
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	56	5632631**	Fjelstad et al.	May-97	
	57	5646451	Freyman et al.	7/8/1997	
	58	5653019	Bernhardt et al.	8/5/1997	
<i>[initials]</i>	59	5653380	Haji	8/5/1997	
<i>[initials]</i>	60	5811982**	Beaman et al.	Sep-98	
Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>		Date Considered	5/17/04	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Application Number	09/953,666
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First Named Inventor	Thomas H. Dozier II et al.
Group Art Unit	2839
Examiner Name	Unknown

Sheet	3	of	4	Attorney Docket No.	P17D1-US
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ⁵	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Relevant Portions	T ⁶
		Office ² CoAde ³	Number ⁴	Kind				
✓	61	DE	3709222		Schindling	3/20/1987		X
	62	JP	2001- 526772		FormFactor, Inc.	12/18/2001		
	63	JP	2001- 524258		FormFactor, Inc.	11/27/2001		
	64	JP	9-512139		FormFactor, Inc.	12/2/1997		
	65	JP	10-506197		FormFactor, Inc.	6/16/1998		
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